

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 PRS-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

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R 202245Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4406

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: CA MINECONS PLANNING TWO MTGS.

REF: GUATEMALA 4888

1. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES IN THE INTEGRATION MOVEMENT, THE CA MINISTERS OF ECONOMY ARE WORKING OUT PLANS TO MEET TWICE IN THE NEAR-TERM FUTURE. THE FIRST MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN TWO OR THREE WEEKS, AT THE INITIATIVE OF GOG MINISTER PALOMO, BUT THE VENUE HAS NOT BEEN SET. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WOULD BE TO PLAN THE SECOND MEETING, WHICH WOULD BE HELD, UNDER ECLA AUSPICES, IN DECEMBER OR (MORE LIKELY) IN JANUARY. THIS FORUM WOULD BE IN THE CONTEXT OF ECLA'S COMMITTEE OF ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, DORMAN SINCE 1967 BUT STILL THEORETICALLY IN EXISTENCE.

2. THE REASON FOR UTILIZING THE ECLA COMMITTEE DEVICE IS THE NEED TO BY-PASS THE STALLED POLICY AND PROBLEM-SOLVING MACHNIERY OF THE CACM. SINCE HONDURAS' WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CACM, IT HAS NOT BEEN FEASIBLE FOR THE CACM'S ECONOMIC COUNCIL TO MEET TO DISCUSS POLICY ISSUES. THE INTEGRATION VICE-MINISTERS, WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO MEET REGULARLY TO RESOLVE SHORT TERM PROBLEMS,

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HAVE NOT PROVEN AN EFFECTIVE FORUM. MOREOVER, THEIR MEETINGS HAVE

BEEN REPEATEDLY POSTPONED, MOST RECENTLY AT THE REQUEST OF EL SALVADOR, FOR REASONS THAT ARE UNCLEAR AND UNCONVINCING.

3. COMMENT:

(A) IT APPEARS THAT THOSE SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED MEETING SEE THEM AS PRIMARILY DESIGNED AS A METHOD OF SETTING UP INTERIM POLICY MACHINERY FOR RESOLVING OR AT LEAST CONFRONTING REGIONAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS "RESTRUCTURING" OF THE CACM AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CA ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMUNITY ARE ACCOMPLISHED, PERHAPS SOME THREE YEARS HENCE.

(B) PALOMO AND INTEGRATION FIGURES--IN ADDITION TO THEIR OWN CONVICTIONS--ARE PROBABLY RESPONDING TO PRIVATE SECTOR PRESSURES URGING ACTION TO CREATE A MORE FUNCTIONAL REGIONAL MARKET.

(C) EL SALVADOR'S POSTPONEMENT OF THE MTG OF VICE MINISTERS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER IS SEEN AS PART OF THE GOES CAMPAIGN (MOST MANIFEST IN ITS BLOCKING OF CABEI'S CAPITAL INCREASE) TO FORCE A GLOBAL SOLUTION TO THE CACM'S CURRENT STAGNATION. TRA-
GEN.

ALSO PASSED INFO USAID/GUATEMALA.
ANDREWS

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